



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

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COVID-19 Visitation Guidance for Eleanor Slater Hospital

As all are aware, we at Eleanor Slater Hospital have taken an approach to mitigation of risk of COVID-19 infection that presumes all at the hospital may be COVID infected and we have adjusted precautions to reflect that stance. We have seen a marked decrease in COVID-positive tests in both patients and staff as a result of this approach. This memo is to clarify the visitation policy at the hospital during this period of high community rates of COVID-19 infection.

ESH will allow family and friends to visit patients at discretion of nursing. There must be adequate space for visiting to occur to allow for social distancing which may limit the number of visitors allowed at a particular point in time. Visits must be non-contact at this time.

Visitation Requirements:

1. All visitors must show evidence of vaccination and booster vaccination against COVID-19 or must show a paper or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 test from either a rapid antigen test (BinaxNOW) within 48 hours or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test completed within 72 hours of the visit. Visitors may also show proof of positive test result within last 90 days, but past the 10-day isolation period. Anyone who does not comply with these requirements will not be permitted to remain within the hospital.
2. Every visitor and patient receiving the visitor must be masked. Visitors are asked to wear an N95 mask provided by the hospital. Patients may use an N95 mask or, if they find it difficult to wear the N95 mask, they may wear a surgical mask. Masking requirements apply for all except visitors under 2 years old or visitors/patients having a medical condition, mental health condition or disability that prevents wearing a mask.
3. All visitors will be screened for symptoms at the building entrance and those with positive symptom screens will not be permitted to enter the hospital.
4. We ask that all visitors refrain from direct contact with patients at this time.
5. At the discretion of nursing, designated areas may be used for visits. Nursing will notify housekeeping following a visit for cleaning after the visit ends.

Thank you for your attention to this guidance. It is important for our patients to be able to have visitors while observing safety precautions for staff, patients and visitors. We look forward to helping those visits to occur during these difficult times.